

Hotel Belleclaire ..Broadway at 77th street

October 10, 1937 ..New York

Telephone Endicott 2.7700

Dear Mr. Allison..

I hope and trust that you have not forgotten the lady in white and red who dropped in at the Maxine Elliott Theater one hot night, and boldly approached you in the hope of interesting you in a potential collaboration?

Well..I am she..Blanche van Buren..and still in hope..

My contact with Mr. Lee Posner is at an end. He brought in an atrocious person named "Mickey" Owens..which, of course, cannot be his real name..and I am not curious to know any other. Also Mr. Posner, after sending me flowers, ice-cream, and what not, suddenly chilled on the job. I am not curious to know why!

But..I have had the outlines and principal scenes of my proposed play "Black Cinderella" read by experts. ALL OF THEM advise me to go on with it..but to get a copyright immediately, even if it is not finished and polished! So it must be good..

Now then..instead of doing all this myself..then beginning the weary round of producers and agents..until I am an old woman and my teeth fall out, I propose that you help me on this play .....at your home, if you wish, or I will lease a small office space for your night leisure, so as not to conflict with your W. P. A. work... Then if you and I can whip it into shape, you can sign your name or both our names, and quite possibly with its superb music back-ground, a W. P. A. producer might be interested in putting it before foot-lights....



The theme is interesting and greatly revealing to your race..the scenes are unique..the finale most romantic..there is pathos, as well as comedy ..and big music possibilities . with an act of the Meyerbeer opera"; "Africaine" , is a big scene , in which my heroine makes her operatic debut.. etc.

I talked with Mr. Fishel, of W. R. A. Theater project, at 1697 Broadway .He read the stuff..said I had the makings of a swell play..but they could do nothing for me as they were too busy frying their own fish..!!

Well, am I to be left out because I am not a member of anything? I am flat broke...after 30 years of making my living.. and the U. S. government certainly owes me help as well as others..

I would gladly offer you a handsome fee if I had money, but I am penniless and receive an allowance from home at present..

My situation is a crime..but I am used to bad luck..

At present I am promoting a new comic strip which I created and own in partnership with a talented young artist. We go fifty-fifty on all or it, including a possible toy.

So I thought you might be interested in working on the same terms with me. I have very influential acquaintances who are marking time, waiting for me to "click"..so they can applaud...

If you cannot help me, can you recommend some young and gifted Negro playwright who may be eager to get a contact like mine and a splendid plot of work on?

Please answer promptly if you can.

Fraternally,

Blanche A. van Duren